

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. **(Currently Amended)** A rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing elastic article, wherein the article is a molded/formed product of a rubber-like composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of ~~[[50%]]~~ 95% or more or a modified product thereof, wherein the molding/forming is accompanied by ~~crosslinking~~ vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in a solvent, and

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of ~~[[20]]~~ 83 $\times 10^4$ or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. **(Previously Presented)** The rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing elastic article of claim 2, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a hydrogenated product of a polymer of isoprene unit derived from *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Ficus elastica*, *Eucommia ulmoides*, or a fungus belonging to the genus *Lactarius*.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for producing a rubber-like elastic article, comprising the step of subjecting a rubber composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of ~~[[50%]]~~ 95% or more or a modified product thereof to molding/forming accompanied by ~~crosslinking~~ vulcanization,

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in a solvent, and

wherein said hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of ~~[[20]]~~ 83 x 10⁴ or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article, which is a resin modifier comprising a rubber-like polymer that is a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid having a degree of hydrogenation of ~~[[50%]]~~ 95% or more, or a modified product thereof,

wherein said rubber-like polymer is a polymer which is the reaction product of a natural polyisoprenoid with hydrogen in the presence of a rhodium complex hydrogenation catalyst in a solvent, and

wherein said rubber-like polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of ~~[[20]]~~ 83 x 10⁴ or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more.

9. – 11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Previously Presented)** A resin composition comprising a resin and the rubber-like or rubber-like-material-containing article according to claim 8.

13. **(Original)** The resin composition of claim 12, comprising 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the resin modifier per 100 parts by weight of the resin.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A molded article made from the resin composition of claim 12.

15. – 21. **(Cancelled)**

22. **(Currently Amended)** An article comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex or a modified product thereof, wherein the article is a molding/forming product of a rubber-like composition comprising a hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex having a degree of hydrogenation of 50% or more or a modified product thereof,

wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid has a weight-average molecular weight of $[[[20]] \ 60 \times 10^4]$ or more and a molecular-weight distribution of 2.0 or more, and

wherein the molding/forming is accompanied by crosslinking.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The article according to claim 22, wherein the hydrogenated natural polyisoprenoid latex is a product of the reaction of the natural polyisoprenoid latex with hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The article according to claim 22, wherein the natural polyisoprenoid latex is a latex derived from *Hevea rasiliensis*, *Ficus elastica*, *Eucommia ulcommia*, or fungus belonging to the genus *Lactarius*.

25. **(New)** The article of claim 23, wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a homogeneous catalyst and a heterogeneous catalyst,

wherein the homogeneous catalyst is selected from the group consisting of a rhodium complex catalyst, metal salts, and metal-containing ionic compounds;

wherein said metal salts and metal-containing ionic compounds are selected from the group consisting of nickel carbonate-trialkylaluminum, palladium chloride, and palladium acetate, and

wherein the heterogeneous catalyst is a solid catalyst having Pd/CaCO₃ or Pd/C.